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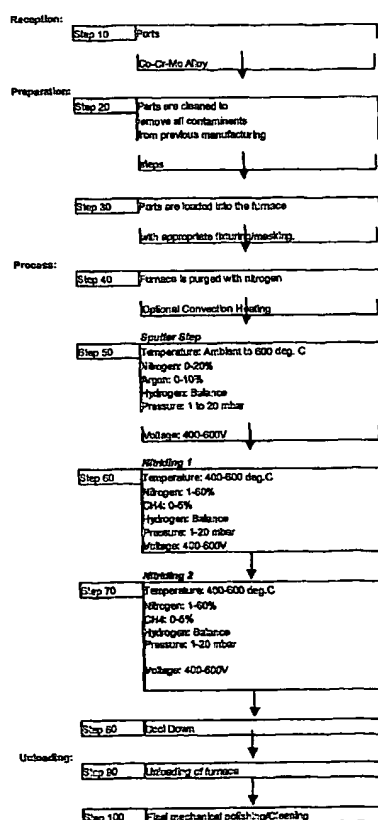
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **NITRIDING METHOD FOR IMPROVING SURFACE CHARACTERISTICS OF COBALT-CHROMIUM BASED ALLOYS**



(57) Abstract: A method for improving the surface characteristics of Cobalt chromium alloys by plasma nitriding. By creating a glow discharge around the parts with selective gases at partial pressures a compound layer is formed at the surface beneficial for wear applications. A further benefit is an increase in the load bearing capacity of the surface as compared to standard material.

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